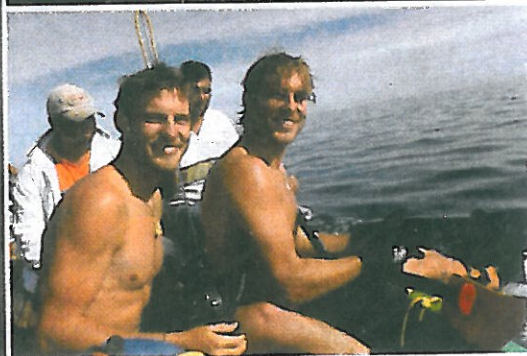


sports

by Bret and Chad van Roden



online

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Around the world by sail

Admit it: There are times you'd like to just chuck it all, give up the security of a lucrative career and sail off into the sunset.

Well, two 20-something professionals, twins Bret and Chad van Roden, didn't wait until their golden years to go on the voyage of a lifetime. They left great jobs, purchased an oceangoing sailboat – which they renamed *The Broken Compass* – and in October began circling the globe with little more than their seafaring knowledge, wide-eyed sense of adventure and Makai, their playful Siberian husky.

In the coming months, OC METRO will be following Bret, Chad and Makai as they circle the world by sail. Here is but one of many dispatches sent directly from *The Broken Compass*.

BROKENCOMPASSDISPATCH X

Oct. 31 – All sailors in the Baja Ha-Ha (a rally from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, baja-haha.com) were warned of a storm with large swells and up to 25 knots of wind. The majority of the race planned to take refuge along the coast (but) we headed out to sea. ... The storm kicked up around 3 p.m. the following day with winds and swells lifting. ... Without the luxury of an autopilot, one person had to man the helm while the other attempted to get some sleep. In a storm with 20-foot swells and up to 30 knots of wind, we couldn't afford to leave the helm for even a few seconds to awaken the other down in the cabin. The result: One person captained one-hour shifts, while the other lay tethered to a cleat attempting to sleep with the occasional wave crashing over the gunnels. ... We rode out the storm with minimal damage and arrived safely in Turtle Bay on Thursday evening, Oct. 30. Tuning in to the radio, we discovered others had not been as fortunate. One sailboat was struck by a whale during the storm and sank. ... Another boat issued a distress call after running into a crab pot that entangled the prop and rudder. It is now Friday morning. Makai is desperately seeking firm ground to step on, and we have a beach party with the other boats to attend.